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MARKET BOSWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year 1943.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my Annual Report on the Health of your District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	63,717.
Population Census, 1921.....	23,196.
" " 1931.....	23,544.
Estimated resident Population 1931...	23,780.
" " " 1943...	23,250.
Number of inhabited houses.....	6,306.
Rateable value.....	£95,825.
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£370.

Social Conditions.

The Population is partly industrial and partly agrarian, the main industries being Coal Mining, Granite Quarrying and, to a small extent, Hosiery Manufacture. These are all situated in the North of the District.

Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate.	M. 231, F. 213.	Total. 444.
Births. Illegitimate.	M. 7, F. 6.	Total. 13.
	M. 238. F. 219.	Total. 457.

Stillbirths. 11 Legitimate. nil. Illegitimate. Total. 11.

Birth Rate.....19.6.

" " for England and Wales.....16.5.

Deaths.....M. 139. F. 104. Total..... 243.

Crude Death Rate.....10.4.

Death Rate for England and Wales.....12.1.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis.....0.
other Puerperal causes.....0.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-
Legitimate - 21. Illegitimate - 1. Total. 22.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births.....48.

" " " for England and Wales....49.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....32.

" " Measles " " ..... 1.

" " Whooping Cough (all ages)..... 2.

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)..... 3.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (Civilians only)

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All causes.....	139.	104.
Scarlet Fever.....	-	-
Measles.....	1.	-
Whooping Cough.....	2.	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-
Influenza.....	2.	6.
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	7.	2.
Other Tuberculosis.....	2.	-
Syphilis.....	-	-
Cancer, malignant disease.....	18.	14.
Diabetes.....	-	2.
Intra Cranial Vascular lesions.....	11.	9.
Heart Disease.....	24.	22.
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	4.	3.
Bronchitis.....	12.	3.
Pneumonia (all forms).....	6.	6.
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	3.	4.
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	4.	1.
Diarrhoea etc., (under two years).....	2.	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis.....	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases.....	3.	5.
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	3.	2.

Congenital Causes.....	4.	2.
Puerperal Sepsis.....	-	-
Other maternal causes.....	-	-
Premature Births.....	4.	1.
Suicide.....	1.	-
Road Traffic Accidents.....	2.	2.
Other deaths from violence.....	5.	3.
All other causes.....	19.	16.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council:-

A. 1. Fever. The Isolation Hospitals are controlled by the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals Committee. Patients are sent to such Hospitals as have beds available for the disease from which they are suffering. The principal Hospital is situated in this District.

2. Small Pox. There are two Hospitals provided for the County as a whole.

B. 1.) 2.) Tuberculosis, Maternity and Children's Hospital. Accommodation is controlled by the County Council and the matter is dealt with comprehensively in the County Report. The County Sanatorium is situated at Markfield in this District.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious Cases. Motor Ambulances are provided in connection with the Isolation Hospitals.

(b) For non-infectious cases and Accident. In April 1941, the Council accepted the gift of the "Wollaston" Ambulance from Mrs. Wollaston of Shenton Hall. The Leicester Royal Infirmary and other voluntary organisations also provide facilities.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:- All under the County Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time official but does not engage in private practice.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is also Sanitary Surveyor, devotes the whole of his time to his official duties, as also does the additional Sanitary Inspector.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The County Council's Health Visitors visit cases in this District. There are District Nurses in all the larger Parishes.

Midwives.

The supervision of Midwives is vested in the County Council.

Chemical Work.

Analyses of foods and drugs are conducted by the County Analyst. The Medical Officer of Health analyzes samples of water.

Legislation in force.

Byelaws with respect to New Buildings were adopted for the whole District in 1925.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.	No. of samples taken for analysis	27.
	No. condemned	15.
Wells.	No. closed	-
	No. cleansed, repaired etc.,	7.
	No. of cases in which Public supply was substituted for well water	30.
	No. of Parishes with a piped water supply from Public mains	9.
	No. of Parishes without a piped supply	11.

There has been no appreciable shortage of water during the year. Arrangements have been made to have available trailer tanks and tanks in lorries capable of transporting 1000 gallons to supplement local water supplies in an emergency.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No. of Cesspools constructed during the year.....nil.
No. of Cesspools abolished during the year.....nil.
Total number in District on December 31st.....293.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in District on December 31st:-

(1) Pail Closets.....3350.

(2) W.C's. .....2822.

No. of Closets converted to the water carriage systems during the year:-

(a) Privies.....nil.

(b) Pails.....180.

No. of Privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year..... nil.

(4) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Under the system of centralised collection, service is now being given as often as practicable to the whole of the Rural District, 6,000 Dustbins and 3,350 Pail Closets being emptied each round.

The strain due to evacuation has eased, but has been increased by Military causes. Labour shortage is acute owing to the calling up of men for service in the Forces, and the transfer of labour to the Mines and Munitions.

The Essential Works Order was applied to this Council on the 21st. December 1941. Difficulties of collection have increased owing to Dustbins and Pail Closets being in short supply. Various kinds of receptacles are being used which are difficult to handle.

(5) SALVAGE.

Salvage is collected every three weeks and comprises all classes of materials as described in the monthly Salvage Return required by the Ministry. The collection of Salvage is carried out under the direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and is quite separate from the ordinary refuse collection. Collections are still satisfactory and it is mentioned at the conclusion of four years of Salvage that a total tonnage of 1,989 tons was collected, realising £7,814/12/10.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total No. of complaints received.....98.

Total No. of defects or nuisances discovered.....76.

Nature of Inspections:-

	Inspections.	Revisits.
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	294.	87.
Tents, Vans etc.,	42.	18.
Slaughter Houses.	34.	2.
Food Premises.	60.	25.
Dairies and Cowsheds.	240.	64.
Offensive Trades.	4.	-
Animal Keeping.	-	-
Workshops etc.,	38.	7.
Shops.	44.	-
Other premises.	28.	-
TOTAL.	784.	203.

(7) SHOPS.

Particulars of action taken during year under the Provisions of the Shops Act 1934:-

	Outstanding from previous year.	Defects found.	Defects remedied.	Oustanding 31st. December.
Sanitary convenience.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Temperature.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Ventilation.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.

(8) CAMPING SITES.

No. of sites in area used for Camping purposes during year.....17.

No. of camping sites for which Licences have been issued.....nil.

Military Camps and Agricultural Harvest Camps are included in the figure given above.

(9) REGULATED BUILDINGS.

Regulated Buildings.	No. in District.	No. of Inspections.	Action taken.	General conditions.
Common Lodging Houses.	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, Sheds. etc.,	38.	42.	14.	FAIR.
Canal Boats.	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades.	1.	4.	-	FAIR.

(10) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken:-

No. of Council Houses infested.....1.

No. of other dwelling houses found infested.....4.

No. of houses disinfested.....5.

(11) SCHOOLS.

(a) Sanitary conditions.....GOOD.

(b) Water Supply of Schools.....no shortage reported.

(c) No. of Schools disinfected and method employed. NONE.

(12) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No. in Area.....NIL.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts).....84.

(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose.....112.

(2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932....nil.

(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose.....nil.

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....nil.

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...66.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....30.

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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act. 1936:-

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.....Nil.

2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
(a) by owners.....Nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners....Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... 7.

2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
(a) by owners..... 2.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners....nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 2.

2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... 1.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:-

1. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....nil.

2. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....nil.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. Part IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.... not known.
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... " "
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..... " "

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... nil.

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... nil.
(ii) No. of persons concerned in such cases.....nil.

It has been found impossible to keep accurate records of overcrowding conditions in the Area owing to the influx of official and unofficial evacuees and munition workers.

It is very difficult to even make an estimate at the moment, but on the whole the position is a little easier than it was last year.

13. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.:-

COWKEEPERS.

No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions.			
		Outstanding from previous year.	found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on 31st. December.
313.	220.	5.	38.	35.	8

DAIRYMEN OR PURVEYORS OF MILK.
(other than Cowkeepers)

No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions.			
		Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on 31st. December.
133.	20.	Nil.	8.	7.	1.

TOTAL CONTRAVENTIONS.

	Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on 31st. December.
Cleansing.	1.	17.	18.	Nil.
Structural Alterations.	-	11.	3.	8.
Utensils.	-	15.	14.	1.
Other.	4.	3.	7.	nil.

MILK SAMPLING.

Class.	Total number of samples taken for bacteriological examination.	Number satisfactory.	Number unsatisfactory.
Designated.	Taken by County Council.	nil.	nil.
Ordinary.	38.	34.	4.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

No. of Regional Slaughter Houses in District.....NIL.
No. of animals slaughtered elsewhere.....2,518.
No. of animals examined elsewhere..... 240.
No. of inspections of Meat at time of slaughter..... nil.
No. of Knacker Yards in District..... nil.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total weight in lbs.
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	2,518.	Not known.
Number inspected.	-	-	-	-	240.	Not known.
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY. Whole Carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT STALLS.

No. of Inspections.....Nil.

MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES ETC.,

No. of Inspections..... 32.

PLACES WHERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) IS KEPT OR PREPARED FOR SALE.

No. of Inspections..... 13.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was much the same as in the previous year with the exception of Diphtheria, Measles and Whooping Cough.

Diphtheria cases notified, which last year dropped from 62 in 1941 (49 were children under 15) to 39 in 1942 (28 were children under 15) have this year further declined to 18, and of these only six were children under the age of 15. This steady decline in the number of cases of Diphtheria is most satisfactory, and it appears that the immunisation of the children so far carried out, although not so complete as I would have wished, is now having its effect.

During this year, every village, even the most remote hamlet, was again visited and facilities offered to the residents to take advantage of the protection. In this respect, the Wollaston Ambulance

as a Mobile Unit proved of inestimable value. During the year 764 children received treatment, 468 under five years, and 296 between five and fifteen years. In addition to this, 131 children received a third injection on reaching the age of five. In my report for last year, I mentioned that I was not satisfied with the figures for the under five group, and that a special effort was being made to reach these. I am happy to report that this is proving successful. Direct approach to the parents is made, and a letter sent to the parent of every child under five just prior to visiting the village, urging them to take advantage of the treatment, and giving the date, time etc., of the visit, facilities offered practically on their doorsteps.

The following cases of infectious disease came under observation during the year:-

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria.	18.	18.	0.
Scarlet Fever.	55.	53.	0.
Pneumonia.	12.	1.	12.
Erysipelas.	2.	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	5.	5.	5.
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	3.	3.	-
Measles.	354.	1.	1.
Whooping Cough.	66.	2.	2.

In addition to the above, the following cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year:-

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Respiratory. F.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Respiratory. M.	Deaths. Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. M.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. F.
1 and under 5 years.	-	-	1.	1.	-	-	-	-
5 " " 15 "	1.	1.	-	-	-	1.	1.	-
15 " " 45 "	11.	10.	1.	1.	3.	3.	1.	-
45 " " 65 "	-	-	2.	-	2.	-	-	-
Total.	12.	11.	4.	2.	5.	4.	2.	-

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, nor was any action necessary under Sect. 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following specimens were examined by the County Bacteriologist:-

Milk Examinations (bact).....	218.
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria.....	98.
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli.....	70.
Sewage and Water Analyses.....	8.
Blood for Wasserman Test.....	83.
Urine. T.B. etc.,.....	25.
Miscellaneous.....	30.
Total.	532.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

T.W. GORDON KELLY. M.D., D.P.H. (Oxon)

Medical Officer of Health.

Desford.
Leicester.
14th. July. 1944.